

# PATENT

**VERIFIED STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS**  
**(37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(c))—SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN**

☐ the owner of the small business concern identified below:

☒ an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

I hereby declare that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern, as defined in 13 CFR 121.12, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees to the United States Patent and Trademark Office under Sections 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third-party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to, and remain with, the small business concern identified above, with regard to the invention described in

- ☒ the specification filed herewith, with title as listed above.  
☐ the application identified above.  
☐ the patent identified above.

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights in the invention is listed below\* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c), if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

\*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

Each such person, concern or organization having any rights in the invention is listed below:

- ☐ No such person, concern, or organization exists.  
☐ Each such person, concern or organization is listed below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small business entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

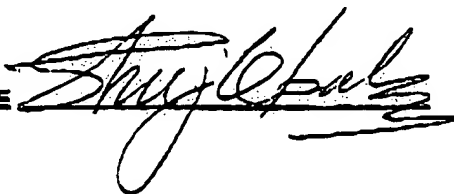
I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Name of Person Signing Shuji OKABE

Title of Person if Other Than Owner President

Address of Person Signing 12, Shin-hazama, Seki-shi, Gifu  
501-32 JAPAN

SIGNATURE



Date 11/1/99

**THE** **WORLD'S** **LARGEST** **BOOKSTORE**

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my/our name,

(check one)

\_\_\_\_\_ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as

and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under title 35, United States Code 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

**Prior Foreign Application(s).**

|                             |                           |  | Priority<br>Claimed                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|
| <u>8-116269</u><br>(Number) | <u>Japan</u><br>(Country) | <u>10 May 1996</u><br>(Day/Month/Year Filed)       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes No |
| <u>8-136583</u><br>(Number) | <u>Japan</u><br>(Country) | <u>30 May 1996</u><br>(Day/Month/Year Filed)       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes No |
| <u>8-150592</u><br>(Number) | <u>Japan</u><br>(Country) | <u>12 June 1996</u><br>(Day/Month/Year Filed)      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes No |
| <u>8-169162</u><br>(Number) | <u>Japan</u><br>(Country) | <u>28 June 1996</u><br>(Day/Month/Year Filed)      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes No |
| <u>8-232810</u><br>(Number) | <u>Japan</u><br>(Country) | <u>3 September 1996</u><br>(Day/Month/Year Filed)  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes No |
| <u>8-295076</u><br>(Number) | <u>Japan</u><br>(Country) | <u>7 November 1996</u><br>(Day/Month/Year Filed)   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes No |
| <u>8-295297</u><br>(Number) | <u>Japan</u><br>(Country) | <u>7 November 1996</u><br>(Day/Month/Year Filed)   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes No |
| <u>8-300586</u><br>(Number) | <u>Japan</u><br>(Country) | <u>12 November 1996</u><br>(Day/Month/Year Filed)  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes No |
| <u>8-303295</u><br>(Number) | <u>Japan</u><br>(Country) | <u>November 14, 1996</u><br>(Day/Month/Year Filed) | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes No |

|                             |                           |  |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| <u>8-308526</u><br>(Number) | <u>Japan</u><br>(Country) | <u>19 November 1996</u><br>(Day/Month/Year Filed) <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes No  |
| <u>8-314725</u><br>(Number) | <u>Japan</u><br>(Country) | <u>26 November 1996</u><br>(Day/Month/Year Filed) <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes No  |
| <u>8-323120</u><br>(Number) | <u>Japan</u><br>(Country) | <u>3 December 1996</u><br>(Day/Month/Year Filed) <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes No   |
| <u>8-350649</u><br>(Number) | <u>Japan</u><br>(Country) | <u>27 December 1996</u><br>(Day/Month/Year Filed) <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes No  |
| <u>9-12842</u><br>(Number)  | <u>Japan</u><br>(Country) | <u>27 January 1 1997</u><br>(Day/Month/Year Filed) <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes No |
| <u>9-22846</u><br>(Number)  | <u>Japan</u><br>(Country) | <u>5 February 1997</u><br>(Day/Month/Year Filed) <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes No   |
| <u>9-36159</u><br>(Number)  | <u>Japan</u><br>(Country) | <u>20 February 1997</u><br>(Day/Month/Year Filed) <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes No  |
| <u>9-52921</u><br>(Number)  | <u>Japan</u><br>(Country) | <u>7 March 1997</u><br>(Day/Month/Year Filed) <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes No      |

# F O R E W O R D

| (Application Serial No.) | (Filing Date) | (Status)<br>(patented,<br>pending,<br>abandoned) |
|--------------------------|---------------|--|
|--------------------------|---------------|--|

| PROVISIONAL APPLICATION NUMBER | FILING DATE |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
|                                |             |
|                                |             |
|                                |             |

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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